

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of the above-captioned patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

By the forgoing amendments, claims 1, 3, 5-9, and 11-13 have been amended, and claims 2 and 4 have been canceled, without prejudice. Thus, claims 1, 3, 5-9, and 11-13 currently are pending and are subject for examination in the above-captioned patent application.

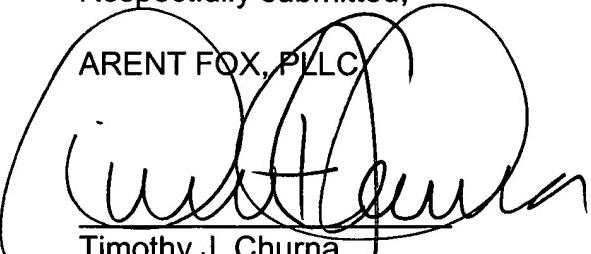
In the Office Action mailed September 25, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-9, and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over International Patent Application No. WO 95/28799 to Lett in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,543,933 to Lang et al. ("Lang"). The Examiner also rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Lett, Lang, and U.S. Patent No. 6,493,876 to DeFreese. To the extent that these rejections remain applicable to the claims, as pending, Applicants hereby traverse these rejections, as follows.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 5-9, and 11-13 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions during Applicants' representatives interview with the Examiner on January 13, 2004. Applicants believe that these amendments overcome the current rejections of claims 1, 3, 5-9, and 11-13. Moreover, Applicants have canceled claims 2 and 4. Therefore, the rejections claims 2 and 4 now are moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below. Applicants are filing a Petition For Extension of Time with this response, and are enclosing a check in the amount of \$950 covering the requisite large entity fee for a three-month extension of time to respond with such Petition For Extension of Time.

Respectfully submitted,

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